

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

import of readymade garments has shown an increase, the quantity of imports is not even 1% of our domestic garment consumption. There has also been no complaint from domestic garment industry associations regarding large scale imports of garments at cheap rates.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

**Suicide by handloom weavers**

†1189. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State:

(a) the number of handloom weavers committed suicide during the last two years owing to problems in their occupation;

(b) the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of new progressive scheme proposed to be introduced by Government to arrive at a solution to the problems of handloom weavers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reports about suicides during the last two years are with regard to powerloom weavers in and around Sircilla in Karimnagar District of Andhra Pradesh. No information/reports have been received from any State Government regarding suicide by handloom weavers in the last two years.

(c) There is no proposal to introduce any new scheme. However for the development of the handloom sector and the welfare of its weavers, the Government of India is implementing the following Schemes:—

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
2. Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing.
3. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
4. Health Package Scheme.
5. Thrift Fund Scheme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

6. Group Insurance Scheme.

7. New Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers.

These schemes provide assistance for all the activities and processes involved in the production and marketing of handloom cloth, as well as make provision for the welfare of weavers.

**BIFR hearing on NJMC**

1190. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the BIFR hearing on 27th June 2001 regarding NJMC Government informed that all the six mills are viable;

(b) whether Government further informed BIFR that they desire others viz. workers' cooperatives, State Government or private companies to run these mills;

(c) if so, the reason why Government of India as a promoter is not willing to run these mills as per the Government's own policy to revive the viable units in Textile Sector; and

(d) If not, the actual position of Government *vis-a-vis* revival of NJMC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (d) In accordance with the directions of BIFR, IJIRA was asked to do a Techno-Economic Viability Study to explore the options of revival of NJMC mills and/or the company as a whole either through privatization or under the ownership/management of Govt. of India. The IJIRA report indicated that only three mills are viable, that too in the private sector. However, with a view to protect employment and to safeguard interests of the workers, it was submitted before BIFR that all the six units may be offered, in order of preference to workers' cooperatives first, failing which to state Governments, public sector/private sector for running these mills. It is envisaged that the